

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 05566 050746Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----052874 050747Z /17
O 050725Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4910

S E C R E T SEOUL 5566

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR KS US
SUBJ: AIDE MEMOIRE ON KIM YONG-WOOK HEARING

REF: A. SEOUL 5425 B. STATE 153579

1. FULLY AGREE WITH POINTS MADE PROPOSED AIDE MEMOIRE CONTAINED REF B AND RELATED PRESS GUIDANCE WHICH FORCEFULLY UNDERSCORE COMMENTS MADE BY AMBASSADOR (REF A) AT TIME FORNMIN PAK TONG-JIN PRESENTED MOFA AIDE MEMOIRE ON KIM YONG-WOOK. THERE HAVE BEEN VARIETY OF COMMENTS TO US OVER PAST 3 TO 4 DAYS WHICH LEAD ME TO SUGGEST THAT IT MIGHT BE BEST, HOWEVER, TO DELIVER PROPOSED OFFICIAL REPLY ORALLY RATHER THAN RECIPROCATATE IN WRITING. WE HAVE HEARD FROM ADMINISTRATION SEVERAL SOURCES, INCLUDING BLUE HOUSE PROTOCOL SECRETARY PHILLIP CHOI, THAT IN FACT MOFA CRAFTED AIDE MEMOIRE ITSELF, THAT TOP LEVELS IN BLUE HOUSE ARE ANGRY AT FORNMIN FOR HAVING PUT THE ROK CONCERNS IN SUCH STRONG WRITTEN LANGUAGE AND THAT FORNMIN HAS BEEN CHASTISED FOR HIS ACTION. SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER GOVERNMENT NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMEN, INCLUDING CHAIRMEN FOREIGN RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC AND COMMERCE COMMITTEES, HAVE PRIVATELY BUT SHARPLY CRITICIZED PAK TONG-JIN FOR HIS HANDLING OF AFFAIR.

2. APPARENTLY REFLECTING CRITICISM PAK TON-JIN HAS

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RECEIVED, VICE FOREIGN MINISTER YUN APPEALED TO AMBASSADOR AT JULY 4 SOCIAL GATHERING FOR UNDERSTANDING AND ASKED US NOT TO REACT SHARPLY TO FOREIGN MINISTER'S AIDE MEMOIRE BUT TO "READ BETWEEN THE LINES." SEEMED QUITE CLEAR FROM YUN'S REMARKS MOFA NOW CHAGRINED ABOUT KIM YONG-WOOK AIDE MEMOIRE AND HOPES WHOLE MATTER WILL DISAPPEAR.

3. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, WE BELIEVE THAT DELIVERING
PROPOSED AIDE MEMOIRE IN WRITTEN FORM MIGHT BE FELT BY
PAK TONG-JIN AS A KICK WHEN HE IS DOWN AND THIS COULD
HAVE EFFECT OF PRODUCING FURTHER ABERRANT BEHAVIOR. WE
FULLY CONCUR IN DESIRABILITY MAKING POINTS IN PROPOSED
AIDE MEMOIRE. BUT SUGGEST THAT WE DO SO ORALLY AT THE
AMERICAN BUREAU LEVEL, INDICATING AT TIME THAT WE PROVIDING
OFFICIAL REPLY AND ACTING UNDER DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS.
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: AIDE MEMOIRE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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